Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Tuesday 05 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Wednesday 06 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 05 Jan 2021 at 00:06

Confidence: High for the cold conditions. Medium in snow and cloud details.

Headline for Tuesday 05 Jan 2021: Bright spells and snow showers. Significant wind chill.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 05 Jan 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Light snow	Sunny intervals	Fog	Fog
Precipitation probability					
30%	50%	60%	20%	20%	20%

Forecast for Tuesday 05 Jan 2021

Weather: Occasional bright or clear spells and snow showers, the cloud and showers most extensive across the Eastern and Far Eastern Fells with the best of the brightness across the Western and South Western Fells.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60%, occasional or extensive cloud base 600 to 900m

Visibility: Very good falling moderate or poor in snow showers, occasionally very poor at height.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 05 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	36/42 NE	31/38 NE	26/34 NE	27/34 NE	26/33 NE	25/31 NE	22/28 NE
600	21/27 NE	19/27 NE	19/26 NE	19/26 NE	18/25 NE	16/22 NE	14/19 NE
300	4/19 N	5/19 N	7/21 NE	8/21 NE	6/20 NE	6/18 NE	4/16 NE
Valley	5/22 N	8/21 N	9/21 NE	10/23 NE	9/23 NE	8/20 NE	7/17 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-14	-4/-14	-4/-12	-4/-12	-4/-12	-4/-12	-4/-12
600	-3/-10	-3/-10	-2/-8	-2/-8	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-8
300	-1/-3	-1/-3	0/-3	1/-3	-0/-3	-0/-3	-0/-3
Valley	2/-1	2/-2	3/-1	3/-0	2/-1	2/-1	2/-1
Freezing Level*	200m	200m	300m	400m	300m	300m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Frost and ice at most levels, perhaps melting a little at lowest levels around the middle of the day.

Forecast for Wednesday 06 Jan 2021

Weather: Mainly dry and bright with some sunny or clear spells. Mist and freezing fog patches possible in the valleys late in the day.

Maximum wind: North or Northeast 10 to 15mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 70%, occasional or patches around 600m.

Visibility: Very good, but poor or very poor in mist and freezing fog.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 3 Celsius rising to Plus 2 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Most levels, perhaps rising to 300m around the middle of the day.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date Monday 4 January. Location Helvellyn summit at 1310. Temperature minus 3.0degC. Maximum wind speed 42.9mph. Wind chill minus 14.1degC. Average wind speed 31.3mph
Full report. Snow showers overnight have added another 1-2cm to existing accumulations, mainly above 500m; some of which has been redeposited on today's strong NE wind. The snowline lies between 300m and 400m depending upon aspect. Above 400m, where the snow has not been disturbed, the snow is soft and its depth generally between 5 and 10 cm, with exceptional deeper drifts able to swallow a 70cm ice axe. As for the past few days, though, the main hazard on paths is ice. With a hard overnight frost, there was ice at all levels (including black ice on pavements) and this is likely to also be the case on Tuesday. Ice is especially present at lower elevations where snow or ice has thawed during the day, on popular routes where snow has been compacted and where small streams or drainage lines cross paths. Especially above 600m, such older ice was hidden beneath fresh snow giving a false sense of security underfoot. This was notably so on steep routes above the snowline where the fresh snow was unstable. Small unstable cornices have formed on many different aspects. Owing to very poor visibility today, it was not possible (or rather sensible!) to inspect those above Helvellyn's headwall. The simple advice is to give the top of any steep slope a wide berth. With a summit windchill on Monday of minus 14 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes crampons and an ice axe are also essential and are strongly recommended for anyone going above the snowline owing to the amount of ice on paths. For thinner ice on paths, microspikes are extremely useful. The slightly deeper snow compared with the past few days, combined with low cloud creates challenging navigation as paths cannot simply be followed and landmarks disappear. It was disappointing to meet people out with neither maps nor compasses although they were sensibly turning back.

Issued at: 00:06 on Tue 05 Jan 2021

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